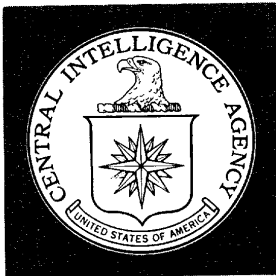


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CIA/SAVA / WIND 710529



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 29 May 1971

NSA Declassification/Release instructions on File.

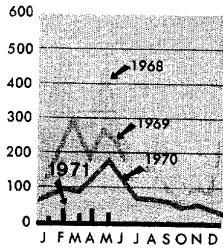
For the President Only

~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1971

Weekly average for each month

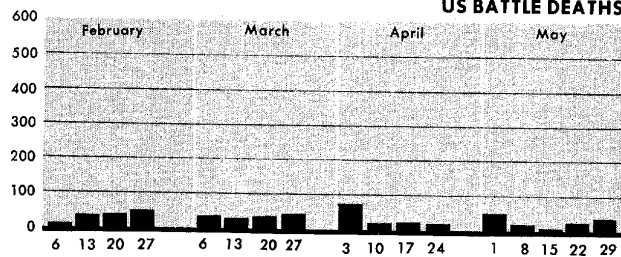


FEBRUARY 1971 - MAY 1971

Weekly data as reported

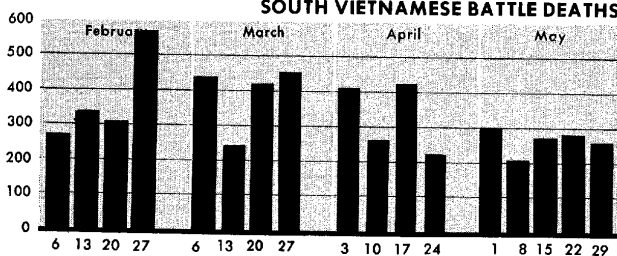
US BATTLE DEATHS

rose to 48 from the 38 of last week.



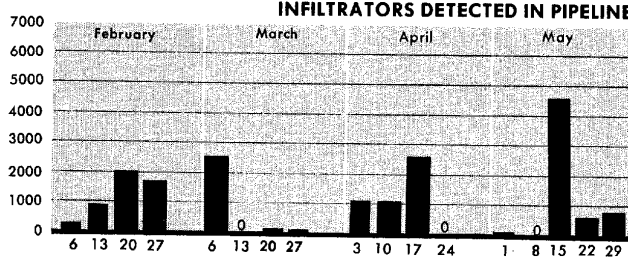
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

decreased slightly to 262 from last week's 289. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.



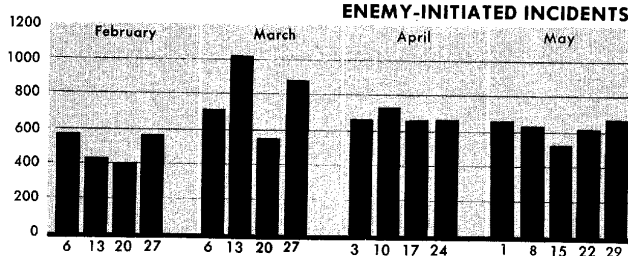
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at one battalion-size and 14 special purpose groups for a total of 811 personnel. This raises the estimate of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 to some 66,700 - 68,700.



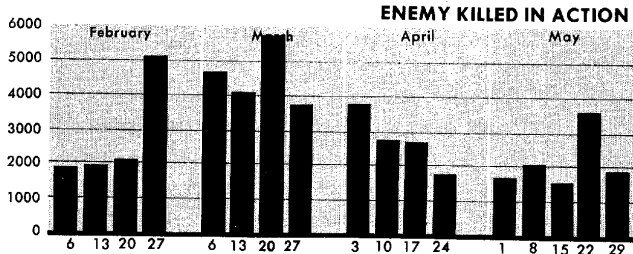
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

increased to 687 from last week's 617.



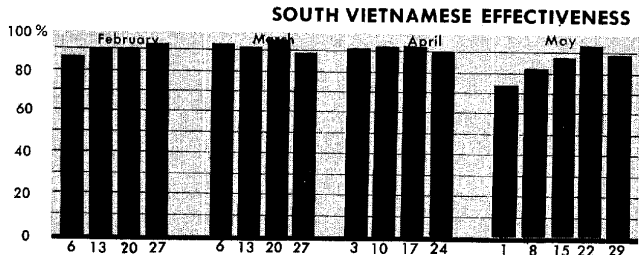
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

dropped sharply from last week's 3,063 to 1,866.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces decreased to 89% from the 94% of last week.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam this week, the current phase of the Communists' spring campaign was highlighted by shellings and ground assaults in the northern coastal provinces and in the central highlands, where enemy activity was sharp though generally limited. Current Communist efforts have followed the pattern set in March and April, with the northern half of the country hardest hit and South Vietnamese forces bearing the brunt of the fighting. In past years, the enemy's spring campaign has been followed by a lull while the Communists prepare for the fall, but this year some evidence indicates the enemy may attempt to maintain pressure well into the summer.

In Cambodia, the level of military activity increased during the week. The heaviest fighting occurred in and around Snuol where the Communists launched mortar and ground attacks against the South Vietnamese task force operating there. The South Vietnamese had previously planned to withdraw this force into South Vietnam and, in effect, the Communists hit while the withdrawal, now essentially completed, was underway. In the Phnom Penh area, two light rocket attacks occurred and terrorists bombed two U.S. military living quarters, but overall damage was slight. In other areas of the country, the Communists continued harassment attacks on outposts and lines of communication.

In Laos, the immediate threat to the Luang Prabang area appears to have abated. North of the Plain of Jars, however, many of the enemy troops formerly deployed against Long Tieng are now concentrated near Bouam Long where they have maintained steady pressure on this Meo forward base (commanded by General Vang Pao's father-in-law). In the Panhandle, the Communists continue to consolidate their new positions and are reacting to the government's limited moves to regain lost territory.

Enemy Infiltration

The detection during the past week of one regular and 14 small, special purpose groups raises the estimate of personnel moving toward South Vietnam/Cambodia since 1 October 1970 to some 66,700 to 68,700. Additionally, the sequential numbering of detected groups suggests that six other regular groups totaling 2,500 to 3,500 men may also be in the system. Numerous other regular groups were noted in Laos this week, but all had been accepted earlier as "gap fills" and the overall estimate was not significantly affected. The sequential numbers of these groups and their detection at this time, however, indicates that they were probably scheduled to depart North Vietnam in February or March but were delayed by the threat posed by LAM SON 719, and have only recently entered the system.

South Vietnam Developments

25X1C [REDACTED] President Thieu is planning to announce the long-awaited cabinet reshuffle this week. The principal casualties will probably be the Ministers of Information, Education, Finance, Ethnic Minorities, and Reconstruction, but several lesser figures are also likely to be replaced.

The Lower House is expected to vote this week on the presidential election law. Thieu is reportedly pressing to have the controversial provision requiring the endorsement of 40 National Assemblymen or 100 Provincial Councillors for each candidate reinstated in the law. If successful, this would probably eliminate all contenders except Thieu and Big Minh, unless the Minh camp were to assist Vice President Ky in acquiring the necessary signatures. Our Saigon Station believes that the government may be able to muster sufficient support (89 votes out of 134) to pass the bill with the restrictive provision. If so, widespread criticism at home and abroad is likely, since the action will be viewed by many as an undemocratic device to suppress Thieu's political opponents. Big Minh has also threatened to withdraw from the race if the provision is reinstated.

Communist Developments

Recently available DRV civil communications emanating from the two southern provinces of Quang Binh and Ha Tinh referred to the allocation of relatively large amounts of funds for the burial of war dead and, also, to large numbers of wounded military personnel. Quang Binh officials, for example, reported that clothing had been provided for nearly 1,450 wounded personnel, while the Ha Tinh Party Committee noted that it had received 60,000 Dong (about \$15,000 - \$20,000) for the building of grave sites. MACV comments that the time frame of the intercepted messages indicates that the casualties probably resulted from the LAM SON 719 operation.

25X1X

25X1X

An insight into the weakening Party apparatus in the Delta province of Go Cong was obtained in a recent debriefing of a prisoner who was active in the area [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The prisoner said that Party chapters currently exist in only four of the province's 18 village administrations, that the Party Province Committee had been reduced almost by half during the past year and that it had not been convened since October 1970. The prisoner reported that to help reverse this situation, Regional headquarters had directed the reindoctrination, reassignment, and reorganization of provincial Party personnel and organizations. The prisoner attributed this sad state of affairs in Go Cong to the GVN's land reform programs and the development of an effective GVN hamlet-level apparatus.

North Vietnam's seaborne imports in the first quarter of 1971 averaged 177,000 tons a month and were 8% more than the first quarter of 1970. The Soviet Union (with 66% of the total) and China (with about 25%) were the DRV's main seaborne suppliers. Food imports decreased about 12% to 50,900 tons a month and petroleum deliveries continued to average around 33,800 tons a month. Seaborne exports during the first quarter increased to 55,000 tons a month, primarily because of a 12% rise in coal exports. DRV rice exports ceased, but there are indications that they may resume in the next quarter. The last observed substantial rice export occurred in October 1970.

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